

I am sorry I have not any statistics for the later years, but the judicial business in the province of Quebec has decreased. There are not as many cases now in the rural districts as there used to be. It seems to me that when a proposition is made to this House to vote a salary for another judge, thus increasing the number of judges in that province, the Government are asking this House to do something which is absolutely useless and imposing upon the country a useless expenditure of \$4,000 per annum. Of course, I know the argument can be made in this House, which I believe my learned friend made this morning. It is true that in 1894 or 1895—I forget which—I, as Attorney General, was constitutionally responsible for the law which was passed in the province of Quebec giving one additional judge to the district of St. Francis. I am sorry to say—and I say it without any hesitation—that that law was a mistake, and that I was wrong, and at the time I knew I was wrong, but, unfortunately, there are some things which have to be done, and a crisis cannot be brought on every time a Minister does not agree with his colleagues. Hon. gentlemen on the other side are in the same position in which I was when I introduced this law in 1894. There was no use for it, because if it be true, as it is, that in the district of Sherbrooke there is too much work for the resident judge, it is not necessary to propose this law, because article 2321 of the revised statutes of the province of Quebec provides:

Whenever the despatch of judicial business in any district requires the services of more judges than there are in such district, or whenever the sole judge in any district is unable to discharge his duty for any reason whatsoever, the chief justice, after having been informed thereof, and having conferred with his colleagues of the locality in which he resides, shall, according to the determination they may come to, require one or more of the judges of districts other than those of Quebec and Montreal, to discharge their duties temporarily in such district for the holding of any term or of the court, provided that such judges can absent themselves without injury to the administration of justice in their districts.

It is a well known fact that the judge in the adjoining district, Judge Lynch, of the district of Bedford, has certainly not sufficient work to occupy all his time or half his time.

It is true, he goes and sits in Montreal now and again, but, if there is such a necessity to have another judge in the district of St. Francis, all that has to be done is for the chief justice to appoint, for instance, Mr. Justice Lynch of the district of St. Francis to help Mr. Justice White. He would have jurisdiction in the district of St. Francis; he has now by law; but he would exercise his functions in the district of St. Francis and would have ample time to exercise the same functions in his own district. But suppose there is some inconvenience in putting

into operation article 2321, if the Government called the attention of the Quebec Government to the fact that this is a useless expenditure to make this difficulty might be obviated. It seems to me it would be very easy for the Government if they do not want to go to the extent of making the radical change that I suggest, at least to propose this change and give the district of St. Francis and the district of Bedford to these two judges, Mr. Justice Lynch and Mr. Justice White. There are other judges in the same position as Mr. Justice Lynch. Take, for instance, the judge at Sorel, the judge of the district of Richelieu; take the judge of the district of Beauharnois; take the judge of the district of St. John—all these judges have leisure time and could very easily go to Sherbrooke and sit there, each of them, at least three months in the year. So, it seems to me this Government would be doing a wise thing and would deserve well of the country if, under the very favourable circumstances under which they are they should say to the Government of the province of Quebec: We will not appoint this judge, but we want to come to some understanding with you by which you will change the system, the old, out-of-date system, which you have in the province of Quebec.

Something has been said of the salaries of the judges in general, and the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) said that the salaries were too low and the judges too numerous. There is no doubt of that—the salaries are ridiculously low. Take, for instance, the city of Montreal. Anybody who knows how expensive living is in the city of Montreal must know that the judges cannot live on the pittance of \$5,000 a year that they receive. What is the consequence? The consequence is that they are obliged to do other things than exercise their functions as judges. Some are testamentary executors. I do not think that is quite a proper thing for them to do, and it takes up a great deal of their time. Others are professors in universities. There are other things also that judges do to make a little money and to try to bring their incomes up to what is necessary for the expenditure which they have to make in order to live in Montreal. Now, if the number of judges, instead of being increased were decreased, then, it seems to me, the Government could bring in a measure increasing the salaries of the judges. And, apart from a very few members, I think that such a measure would be well received in this House; and I think it would be well received by the country at large. Now, I submit that I have shown conclusively by the statistics I have furnished the House, that an additional judge is not necessary; and, therefore, this very economical Government is voting \$4,000 a year quite uselessly. It is no answer to my argument to say that it was I who had the law passed in the province of Quebec increasing the

Mr. CASGRAIN.